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WELCOME TO COMBATANTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Report on the meeting in honour of the South
Viet Nam NFL Delegation visiting the North
(page 3)



VIỆT LIỆT CHAD MỪNG QUÂN HẢI BIỂN MẠI TRẦN
DÂN TỘC GIẢI PHÓNG MIỀN NAM RA THAM MIỀN BẮC

PRESIDIUM OF THE MEETING HELD IN HANOI IN HONOUR OF THE NFL DELEGATION VISITING NORTH VIET NAM
First row, from left to right: Nphom Xuan Yen, Secretary General of the Democratic Party; Phan Ke Toti, Vice Premier; Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Nguyen Van Ngo, NFL Delegation member; Truong Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the FNVN; Mr. Phung Van Chung, head of the NFL Delegation; Ton Duc Thang, Vice President of the DRVN, President of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front; Judicial Superior Thich Thien Hoa, NFL Delegation member; Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the FNVN; Prime Minister; General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the FNVN; Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, NFL Delegation member; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front.

"To End the War, the Crucial Problem Is that of Total and Unconditional With- drawal of US and Satellite Troops from South Viet Nam"

DRVN Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister's answer

NUYEN DUY TRINH, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the DRVN, has accorded an interview to Georg Polkeit, West German journalist, Editor-in-Chief of the Bonner Korrespondenz, who recently visited the DRVN as member of a delegation of Communist leaders of the German Federal Republic. We publish below some of the questions and answers:

Question 1:

How do you evaluate the chances of positive results of the four-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam?

Question 2:

What has motivated, in your opinion, the U.S. representative's proposal to discuss the "restoration of the demilitarized zone" and "concrete military questions"?

Answers to questions 1 and 2:

The purpose of the quadripartite Paris Conference on Viet Nam is to seek a political settlement of the Viet Nam question, put an end to the war and restore peace.

Who has sabotaged peace? Who has unleashed the war? It is the U.S. imperialists. They have sent from the other side of the Pacific over half a million expeditionary troops to invade Viet Nam. They have installed a corrupt and bellicose puppet administration as a tool to maintain their neo-colonialist regime in South Viet Nam.

To put an end to the war and restore peace, the U.S. must cease its aggression; it must give up definitely all encroachments on the sovereignty, and threats to the security of the DRVN, withdraw unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, let the internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of

the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation without foreign interference. The reunification of Viet Nam must be left to the Vietnamese people in both zones, free from outside intervention.

That is the essence of the four points of the Government of the DRVN and the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

That is the basis of a complete settlement guaranteeing the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, meeting the interests of the American people and safeguarding the honour of the U.S. as well as the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The U.S. representative at the quadripartite Paris Conference has been shirking the discussion of such a solution. He has been craftily asking to discuss first of all the "restoration of the demilitarized zone" with a view to misleading public opinion on the origin of the war and on crucial problems to solve if the war is to be ended.

(Continued page 7)

PLAF OFFENSIVES UNABATED ACROSS SOUTH VIET NAM AFTER A FORTNIGHT

- ★ US 25th Infantry Division's Dong Du Base Wiped Out: 1,270 GIs Killed Or Wounded, 179 Vehicles and 39 Giant Helicopters and Planes Destroyed.
- ★ Second PLAF Double Win Northwest of Saigon at Tra Cao, in 48 Hours, 950 GI Casualties
- ★ 10,000 Tons of Munitions and 6 US Aircraft Blasted Near Qui Nhon.

On March 4, the People's Air Force knocked out a pilotless reconnaissance plane in Hanoi airspace, bringing the total US air losses over the DRVN since August 5, 1964 to

3,267

U.S. THREATS WON'T SHAKE OUR WILL TO FIGHT AND TO WIN

IN spite of the most strenuous precautionary measures taken by the U.S. command in Saigon, on the 27th day of the January Revolution (Feb. 22, 1969) powerful and perfectly executed assaults were mounted which shelled out the immense capabilities of the people's patriots were waged by our Southern compatriots against the invaders. They came as no surprise to us, as we had foreseen since these invading forces, which are still raining, were but the continuation of successful actions staged in the course of the last few months in various theaters of operations throughout South Viet Nam. Our statistics themselves disclosed that U.S. casualty figures in January 1969 increased by far those of preceding months and showed an increase of 30 per cent compared with October 1968.

In fact of the South Vietnamese patriots' action, Washington rulers' reaction only betrayed their utter confusion.

Chattering that "a tacit understanding" between the DRVN and the USA in connection with L.B. Johnson's decision to cease all bombardments of North Viet Nam was being violated, the U.S. State Department spokesman said that the U.S. had to be off-point and said he could not affirm whether there was any violation of the understanding. (USNS, Feb. 28.)

The fact, however, is that he was still clinging to the so-called existence of such an understanding, which did not fail to give rise to suspicions among public opinion, in the first place in the United States, Murray Mariner, a Washington Post correspondent, reported on Feb. 27 that at a press conference by Carl Barick, Nixon added him for more clarification on the "tacit understanding" between North Viet Nam and the USA. All at Barick could give as reply was to invite the pressmen to refer to "add documents".

But, as was pointed out by Murray Mariner, the only official text that can be referred to is the following passage in L.B. Johnson's Oct. 1, 1968 speech: "We cannot have productive talks in an atmosphere where the cities are being shelled and where the demoralized one is being abused." For any person with any average intelligence, it is clear that these words were but a unilateral statement which had no bilateral agreement whatsoever.

The Nov. 2, 1968 statement of the DRVN Government unanimously pointed out that the U.S. creation of bombardment words against the whole territory of the DRVN was unconditional, disavowing the current accusation of the White House and the State Department, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry on Feb. 28, 1969 again stressed, "The United States is acting as though an agreement had been reached between

complete lack of the DRVN Government which made it unequivocally plain in the above-mentioned statement of the spokesman of its Foreign Ministry that "the South Vietnamese people have the right to fight against the U.S. aggressors at any place on Vietnamese territory and will fight on until not a single U.S. aggressor is left on Vietnamese soil. Such a right is the Vietnamese people's inalienable right to self-defense".

Mr. Nixon said he would "not tolerate a continuation of a violation of an understanding," but it is up to the 14 million South Vietnamese instead not to "tolerate" the U.S. imperialists' criminal acts. As a matter of fact, they have been meeting out due punishment to the latter.

NEITHER U.S. threats nor U.S. fabrication of a "tacit understanding" between the DRVN and the U.S. would serve the purpose of the aggressors. The only realistic way out for them is to cease their aggressive war against our people, to accept the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and to let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

The DRVN Political Program.

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS Seventh Plenary Session

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam held its 7th plenary session on March 6, 1969.

Taking the floor first, Mr. Tran Ban Kiem, head of the DRVN delegation, pointed out that the U.S. representative at this Conference had only been trying to shirk with roundabouts the imperative demands of the South Viet Nam people. The Nixon administration, he said, while talking peace, has been continuing and even intensifying the aggressive war against South Viet Nam, accumulating innumerable crimes against its people. The DRVN representative cited as examples the raising by air bombing of the whole village of Tam Hiep with a 2000 population on Feb. 23, 1969 and the massacre by U.S. "air cav." of 24 Catholics at My Thanh village, Long An province, on the night of Feb. 24, 1969.

He dismissed the "protection" by the U.S. puppets in connection with the current PLAF attacks throughout South Viet Nam and reassured the right to self-defense of the South Vietnamese people who, under the leadership of the DRVN, were determined to punish the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys at any time and in any place so long as they continue their aggressive war.

The DRVN chief delegate approved the soundness of the DRVN Political Program.

(Continued page 7)

Welcome to Combatants from the Frontline

IN a moving mood, a meeting was held by the representatives of Hanoi citizens in honour of the visiting delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL. Present were Tou Duc Thang, Vice-President of the DRVN and President of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, many leaders of the VNPV and DRVN Government, representatives of main political parties and mass organizations and various religious communities as well as members of diplomatic corps and many foreign guests visiting the DRVN.

Welcoming the delegation on behalf of the people and armed forces of the capital, Dr. Tran Duy Hung, Head of the Hanoi Administrative Committee, underlined the blood relations which united the 17 million Northerners with their 14 million Southern compatriots, in particular the people of Hanoi Hue and Saigon, the 3 cities bound by ties of sworn brotherhood.

He warmly acclaimed the great achievements accomplished over the past year by our 14 million Southern compatriots under the enlightened leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL in the military, political and diplomatic fields. "It is clear, that the South Viet Nam NFL is fully competent to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam", he concluded.

In reply, Dr. Phung Van Tung, head of the NFL delegation recalled these



Representatives of Hanoi people welcoming the NFL delegation

"Restoration of Peace Would Mean End of Thieu-Ky-Huong Clique's Career"

(Statement by South Viet Nam Alliance)

Gall Phong Press Agency has just released a statement on Feb. 25 by the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces giving the Alliance's assessment of the present situation in South Viet Nam. The statement stressed that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and the formation of a peace cabinet ready to enter into negotiations in good faith with the NFL.

The U.S. imperialists still continue to obstruct and have not given up their aggressive designs in spite of their repeated setbacks, the statement said. They are clinging to their agents in an attempt to achieve neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. They are prolonging the war and causing untold sufferings to the people especially to those living in the cities still under their control. That is why, vigorous actions have taken

place with the participation of students, workers, intellectuals, members of the national bourgeoisie and many civil servants and officers of the puppet army, for an end to the war, the restoration of peace, the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and the formation of a peace cabinet ready to enter into negotiations in good faith with the NFL.

The statement stressed that the U.S.-installed Thieu-Ky-Huong regime was identifying itself with the U.S. war of aggression in order to stay in power and get rich at the cost of the people's blood. No wonder it is afraid of peace since the restoration of peace would mean the end of its career. The more the movement against U.S. aggression and for peace grows, the more frantic the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration's

statement concluded.

PARTICIPATION OF NORTH VIET NAM WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Participation of women in State affairs:
 - National Assembly Third Legislature: 44.5 per cent.
 - Vice-President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly: 1
 - Vice-Ministers: 4
 - Provincial People's Committees: 35.2 per cent.
 - Provincial Administrative Committees: 13 per cent.
 - Vice-Chairmen of provincial Administrative Committees: 8
 - District People's Councils: 43.75 per cent.
 - District Administrative Committees: 26.48 per cent.
 - Chairmen of District Administrative Committees: 20
- Vice-Chairmen of District Administrative Committees: 28
- Village People's Councils: 47.42 per cent.
- Village Administrative Committees: 32.74 per cent.
- Chairmen of Village Administrative Committees: 4.81
- Vice-Chairmen of Village Administrative Committees: 4.81
- Participation of women in agricultural matters:
 - Chairmen of Management Committees of agricultural cooperatives: 1,479
 - Vice-Chairmen of Management Committees: 7,983
 - Heads of production teams: 26,429
 - Members of Management Committees: 32,868 (figures available in only 20 provinces and city outskirts).
- Light Industry: 60.62 per cent.
- Trade: 49.5 per cent.
- Communications and Transport: 20 per cent.
- Education: 32.6 per cent.
- Public Health: 48 per cent.

Anecdotes Around Paris Conference

PUPPETS HECKLED BY THE PRESS

At a puppet press conference, an Australian journalist asked the Saigon spokesman, "The Americans said they considered that any appropriate solution to the Viet Nam problem should be based on the fundamental clauses of the Geneva Agreements. Does the Saigon Administration share the same view?"

"We accept these fundamental clauses and we have no objection to the cities being shelled and where the demoralized one is being abused." For any person with any average intelligence, it is clear that these words were but a unilateral statement which had no bilateral agreement whatsoever.

"According to you, is the clause on the holding of general elections in one of the fundamental clauses?" a Paris-Soir reporter inquired.

"We did not sign the Geneva Agreements and we are firmly opposed to them", replied the poor Saigon man to the great dissatisfaction of the whole audience.

The *Humanist* correspondent then put another question, "You said that the U.S. creation of bombardment words against the whole territory of the DRVN was unconditional, disavowing the current accusation of the White House and the State Department, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry on Feb. 28, 1969 again stressed, 'The United States is acting as though an agreement had been reached between

threatened to "crush" and the 14 million South Vietnamese forcibly herded in the Ba Lang An peninsula included in such destructive forces?"

Driven into a corner, the puppet spokesman could but dodge clumsily, "I request you not to go too far."

An American correspondent then brought him back to matters closer in hand regarding some statements by the puppet delegation on the "legality" and "constitutionality" of their government. He read aloud a speech by Senator Fulbright flaying the rigged elections in Saigon and asked the Saigon representative what he thought of it.

"I shall comment only on the views of governmental circles, not of private persons." This again triggered a stir among the attendance.

At the same meeting with the newsmen, the Saigon spokesman also exerted himself to distort a statement of Mr. Xuan Thuy, "We have allowed the so-called South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation to present its views at this conference."

He immediately drew this out from Mr. Xuan Thuy.

"I wonder how the representative of the Saigon

Administration can forget his position as a servant to the Americans and indulgent in such boastful statements which usually are to be found only in the mouths of those deprived of all sense of shame. The boot is just on the other leg: it is the U.S. which requested us to authorize a delegation from Saigon to take part in this conference, and after consultation with the NFL, we agreed and allowed the Saigon representatives to come."

This repartee immediately produced its intended effects: the conference to spare himself a difficult answer.

A few hours later, however, at his press Conference in Saigon, the spokesman continued his habitual distortions of facts. Commenting on the PLAF attacks against U.S. puppet positions in South Viet Nam, he affirmed, "The Communists attacked the civilians."

But at the U.S. Delegation's own press conference in the same room in Segur Street, the American spokesman admitted that "the bulk of the Viet Cong targets was military bases."

"A true dog in the puppets' face", said a correspondent from a Western news agency.

People's Air Force Hero Nguyen Van Bay and PLAF Hero Huynh Thuc Ba

U.S. AND PUPPET CRIMES

IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1968
AND JANUARY 1969

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, terrorist raids were launched in November and December 1968 against the people of Phong Dien and Quang Thien districts (Thua Thien province) and Hai Lang and Trieu Phong districts (Quang Tri province); the enemy massacred over 1,000 civilians, burned thousands of houses and herded thousands of people into concentration camps, got out of the 400 villages in Lam Lu and Gio Linh districts were turned by bombs and toxic chemicals into no man's land and became "free bombing areas."

In Quang Nam province, U.S. puppet and South Korean troops killed 1,052 inhabitants and wounded thousands of others; they destroyed over 2,500 houses and razed tens of villages and hamlets. In Dien Bien district alone, from November 20 to December 9, 7,000 U.S. Marines supported by more than 50 planes of various types encircled and bombed an area of 24,000 sq. meters with a 70,000 population. They killed hundreds of people and concentrated 4,000 people, most of them women, children and old folk.

In Quang Ngai province, a large quantity of bombs and shells including phosphorus shells and toxic gas bombs was used against the people of Ba Lang An village. From January 3 to 14, hundreds of civilians were killed. More than 11,000 inhabitants of the village including over 4,000 women and 7,000 children were captured and put up in internment and dirty concentration camps where the plague already carried off a number of children.

In Bach Gia province, from November 1 to 15, on Oct. 12, 1968, Thai Nong, My Lai, Binh My, Binh An, Binh Thuan, Binh Binh, Ca Mau and Chu Hung along the rivers of Cai Lam, Cau Lue, Binh Dinh, "snapped up" 10,000 enemy troops. Over 3,000 houses were burnt, hundreds of kitchen gardens and many villages levelled to the ground.

From December 22, 1968 to January 6, 1969, U.S. puppet troops raided Thua Thien and An Bien districts (Kach Gia province), Ong Dien and Trieu Phong districts (Ca Mau province). During their operation, B-52's flew hundreds of strikes, while artillery from units of the 7th Fleet and the military sectors of Thua Thien, Kink Mot and Vinh Thuan pounded the area day and night.

U.S. batteries of Kink Mot alone lobbed over 5,000 shells on a village with 2,000 people. Toxic gas bombs were dropped on the air raid shelters, killing a great number of women and children. Those who crept

out of their shelters were machine gunned by helicopters skimming over the ground.

Within a fortnight, over 400 inhabitants were massacred, thousands of others wounded, more than 5,000 houses and much property of the people destroyed.

In Long An province, during the first ten days of November 1968, B-52's dropped six attacks thousands of tons of bombs on villages in Ben Thu, Duc Hoa, and Duc Hue districts and along the Eastern Vam Co river. Toward the end of the month, Duc Lap Ha village was captured by 2 U.S. companies equipped with tanks and bulldozers.

On the afternoon of January 15, 1969, in the same province, U.S. soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division carried out a sweep in a hamlet in My Thanh Dong village, Duc Hue district, savagely killing a score of people in a few hours.

In Tra Vinh province, enemy "sweeps" mounted in November 1968 in Cang Long, Vung Liem, Tra On and Duc Hue district resulted in tens of thousands of houses, many schools and pagodas burnt to ashes. More than 1,000 people were killed or wounded.

In the periphery of My Tho, tens of thousands of houses were burnt and numerous orchards and market gardens devastated in November and December 1968, in Cai Lay district; on November 30 GI's laid Cai Lay township waste, killing 70 people.

According to AP on February 22, within two weeks last month, B-52s made 432 strikes and dropped 46,650 bombs on civilian quarters in South Viet Nam.

IN FEBRUARY 1969

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

The U.S. spent \$9 million more dollars on the supply of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration with 300 modern helicopters UH1 to carry raiding troops. The U.S. ordered its henchmen in Thailand to dispatch to South Viet Nam 1,500 more mercenaries.

The communicate quoted AFP as reporting that on February 7, U.S. troops razed all villages in Ba Lang An area, Quang Ngai province, and arrested 11,476 persons.

Ba Lang An Massacres

On January, 8,000 GI's and puppet troops, under cover of 130 tanks, 80 helicopters, 18 cannon, 25 war vessels, and many combat launches, started an "accelerated pacification" on the area. The raiders gave free rein to their bestial instincts, burning, killing, raping.

A small hamlet inhabited by 18 families in Tinh Son village was pounded with 1,000 combat shells from the February 15, the enemy marched nearly 400 inhabitants of Phuoc Hoa hamlet to a bare hill which was then attacked with helicopter-firing rockets, to the victims were killed, 21 others seriously injured.

Most brutal of all was the massacre at Khanh My ham-

let where, on January 27, a platoon of GI's broke into houses and slew 13 inhabitants including a 60-year-old woman, and a mother with her two children. Most of these people had already known mourning; during a raid in 1967, Pak Jung Hi troops had killed several of their relatives.

The communicate recalled the due punishment meted out by the local people and their armed forces to the criminals. It said that during the first ten days of the enemy operation, the guerrillas and local army killed 25 of the raiders and wounded hundreds of others. They also shot down 9 of the helicopters and hit 3 tanks, destroyed to military vehicles and captured 27 weapons.

In the beginning of January, thousands of officers and men of puppet main-force, Security Forces, Special Forces and Ranger units went on away collective descriptions were recorded, such as the cases of more than 10 officers and men of Special Forces Companies 345, 346 and 347 stationed in Tay Ninh, 150 officers and men of Battalion 1 and Battalion 3, respectively of Regiments 43 and 50, puppet Infantry Division 25 in Long An, 50 Security Forces men posted along Highway N'4 (My Tho) and dozens of Security Forces officers and civil guards in Northern

shelling on March 1, of Vinh Long and Kach Gia (South-east) by U.S. warships and the bombing on March 2 of many localities of Minh Hoa only the DRVN, Quang Binh province.

During January and early February, many cases of war opposition, disobedience and desertion were successful. Late in January and early in February, hundreds of men of Ranger Battalions 22 and 23 disobeyed order, refusing a relief mission for beleaguered Battalion 2, Regiment 47 in the Chu Pa area, and 18 of them ran away.

In Southern Da Nang, in mid-January and early February, many anti-war actions were staged by puppet army men stationed around Tam-Ky and Hot An cities. A 30-man civil guard platoon in Tam-Ky city mutinied. The mutineers killed a commanding officer and 2 bullies and crossed over to the people's side along with their weapons.

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces in response to the call issued by officers and men of Division 1 who had broken away with the Saigon puppet administration, urging restoration of peace, removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime and combat refusal, hundreds of army men stationed in Vinh Long (Feb. 16), in Kach Gia, in the first 10 days of February, 100 officers and men of Security Forces Companies 345 and 347, a company of "Combat Youth" and a civil-guard platoon turned in their weapons and returned to their families or joined the liberated zone to take part in the fight against U.S. aggressors. On Jan. 22, 2 Security Forces men and 100 army men joined the liberated zone to take part in the fight against U.S. aggressors. On Jan. 22, 2 Security Forces men and 100 army men joined the liberated zone to take part in the fight against U.S. aggressors.

All the above-described occurrences tell of the low morale and widespread disruption of the puppet army. They show that the sense of national self-respect and the hatred of the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong traitorous clique are on the increase among the puppet army men.

Such a situation is an inevitable sequence of the ever growing political influence of the NFL, the direct impact of the wave of general attacks and uprisings of the South VN revolutionary movement, and the total bankruptcy of U.S. neo colonialism in South Viet Nam.

In Ca Mau province dozens of officers and men broke away from the puppet

IN NORTH VIETNAM

MEANWHILE in February, the U.S. used planes to spy over the DRVN and B-52 tactical and strategic planes and long range artillery pieces from the southern bank of the Ben Hai river and the 7th Fleet to bombard heavily populated areas in Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area.

According to initial figures, U.S. aircraft conducted 330 reconnaissance missions over almost all provinces and towns of the DRVN.

Vinh Linh alone was reconnoitered 120 times. On

February 14, 20 and 25 American planes on 8 occasions fired rockets and smoke shells on and bombed 8 spots in this area. On February 20, 9 U.S. planes attacked Huong Lap village, causing great losses in lives and property to the population.

Within two weeks in the month, the U.S. slammed nearly 300 artillery shells on 4 villages in Vinh Linh.

On February 10, 12 and 28, American jet fighters and B-52s rained carpet and demolition bombs on 3 areas of Quang Binh province.

AND IN EARLY MARCH 1969

On March 5, 1969 the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry again denounced the daily spy flights carried out by U.S. aircraft over the DRVN airspace. He also protested the

shelling on March 1, of Vinh Long and Kach Gia (South-east) by U.S. warships and the bombing on March 2 of many localities of Minh Hoa only the DRVN, Quang Binh province.

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Desertions and Disobedience Spread Among Puppet Troops

SINCE January 1969, bewilderment at displacement and desertion have been rampant among the puppet army.

In Long Khanh province (Northwest of Saigon), from the beginning of January to mid-February this year, more than 2,000 officers and men of different services ranging from the main force units and rangers to regional troops deserted. Among the combat refusal on the occasion of Tet by 2 Security Forces companies stationed in Vinh Long (Feb. 16), in Kach Gia, in the first 10 days of February, 100 officers and men of Security Forces Companies 345 and 347, a company of "Combat Youth" and a civil-guard platoon turned in their weapons and returned to their families or joined the liberated zone to take part in the fight against U.S. aggressors. On Jan. 22, 2 Security Forces men and 100 army men joined the liberated zone to take part in the fight against U.S. aggressors.

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In Ca Mau province dozens of officers and men broke away from the puppet

army when 200 of their relatives swarmed into the city and petitioned their commanders against sending them on raiding missions in the provinces.

In Mau-Thao City (Kien-Tuong Province, North West of Saigon) on Feb. 19, a large number of patriotic army-men mutinied. They shot dead 2 U.S. advisers and 7 puppet regular troops and wounded 8 other cruel soldiers then joined the liberated zone with their weapons.

In South Central Viet Nam: following the disaster at Song Mao (North of Phan Thiet city) late in December last year and early in January this year, 300 puppet troops of main force Regiment 44 (mostly officers and men of Battalion 2) deserted. The remainder dropped their arms and firmly resolved marching orders.

In Ninh Thuan province, 105 men of regional forces stationed around Phan Rang city turned in their weapons and rejoined their families (Jan. 1969).

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A Former Saigon Air Pilot Speaks

(The following lines are by HUYNH VU, a former Saigon air pilot who recently crossed over to the people's side)

I took part in many air raids which brought death and destruction to my native land. I feel shame and regret at the crimes I committed. Remorse, anguish and frustration gnaw at my conscience.

When, as a Saigon air pilot flying an American plane I saw ricefields ravaged by the tracks of American tanks, villages and hamlets burnt down by American bombs, girls offended by American soldiers, my heart bled. One day, on a flight from Dong Ha to Hue, from the cockpit of my plane I saw green lush rice ground to a pulp by caterpillars of American tanks; I could hardly bear it. How could one be indifferent before wounds inflicted on one's native land? I was flying an American plane and my salary was paid with American money. Deep down, a voice urged me to put an end to my criminal actions and return to my people. Love thy fatherland, the voice was telling me, hate the invader, go back to thy people and fight against the aggressor!

Whose voice was that? Was it the voice of patriotism, of national consciousness? I have not. The feeling was there deep in my heart but could not be analysed. It had roots in my childhood, when I heard the butterflies and flying kites in the fields. In my mind's eye I saw flowers and fruits and the still-lane streams of rivers. I heard lullabies sung by the sweet voices of mothers:

Sleep, my child. Let mother go and carry rice supplies over hills and through forests.

How remote was my childhood, how lovely was my simple life then. Mentally I heard the thumping of the pebble pounding rice late at night. I saw mothers hurrying along muddy dykes or wading in the mud of the fields. O Vietnamese mothers, so gentle, so hard-working, who have contributed so much to the long struggle against foreign aggression.

And now, they are still singing their children to sleep so that they may go and carry supplies for the Liberation troops? How sacred, how profound their love of the fatherland is!

more recently against the French, and now against the Americans, make me proud of our traditional heroism and love for freedom and remind me of the shame of servitude.

Formerly, when I was still flying an American plane, that feeling told me that I had gone astray and urged me to return to my people. When I was flying over the jungles and mountains of Lang Vay, A Son, Thuong Duc... I knew

I love my people. I love my country. I remember those who worked so hard to make it rich and beautiful. Old books and old poems arouse this deep feeling within myself, a feeling tempered by vicissitudes of our national history which abounds in examples of dauntlessness of our forefathers. The holy resistance was waged by our people in the times of the Tran and the Le, in the days of Nguyen Hue,

that deep in those jungles people were marching and singing, resolved to win back independence and freedom for the country. They were the true heirs of our valiant ancestors. Determined to fight to the end, they made light of dangers and hardships.

We live in tunnels, feed on rice pressed into hard balls and drink sparingly from our flasks. We swear to fight the Yankee aggressors like our forefathers.

The day when all strayed young men like myself strayed to their sense of duty and come back to their people to fight against the invader, the wounds suffered by the fatherland will heal. The Americans and their satellites will be swept away all the more quickly. Our people will suffer less bloodshed and our country will achieve peace, independence and reunification. Many men and women of the Saigon army, unable to bear the recollection of shame, have mutinied and crossed over to the people with arms and baggage.

Many pilots have escaped with their planes to foreign countries. I congratulate those men who have realized their mistakes and acted to set them right.

So long as Vietnamese blood flows in our veins, so long as a Vietnamese soul dwells in one's body, sooner or later one will join the ranks of the truly American aggressors to save the country. Such is the conclusion I draw from my own experience. There are a few exceptions, for instance the traitors Thieu-Ky-Huong, but they had sold their Vietnamese souls long ago already in the days of the French. They have human faces, but they have lost their human conscience. For privileges and money the Americans give them, they kill, torture, hit their compatriots and press the young into their army to serve as cannon fodder for their Yankee masters.

When I reflect on it, I always shudder thinking that I could have lost my national feeling; this would have been as bad as losing my conscience. National consciousness is the marrow of the soul. It makes one love one's people. A breach in it would open the way for criminal behaviour, for treason.

How lofty their feelings are! They'd rather endure the worst hardships than live on their knees, as slaves of foreigners! Their philosophy, their view of life gradually sank into my heart and mind and urged me away from the Yanks and their puppets. I am now standing in the common front against American aggression, for national salvation.

(Continued page 7)



Dr. Phung Van Cuong, of present-day of the NFL delegation visiting North Viet Nam is shown here commending, on behalf of the NFL CC, a representative of the patriotic officers and men of the puppet Air-Force Regiment 1, after their successful military action in Huu A, in the Dau Mot province.

Military Operations

NEWS of PLAF attacks against enemy military bases, airfields, services and installations in cities and urban centers since the new Feb. 23 flare-up keeps flashing in and helps paint a more complete picture of this memorable post-Tet period. According to reports released by Gini Phong Press Agency, the patriots mounted offensives in 40 provinces and similar administrative divisions of South Viet Nam. Several hundred most important enemy military targets were hit. The U.S.-puppet hide-outs in 40 cities and provincial capitals including Da Nang, Saigon and Yang Tau, sustained damage and losses, often very serious, during the last week of February. Huge logistical bases, such as Cam Ranh, Long Binh, Nha Be, Pleik, and Qui Nhon were in a blaze for hours, and hundreds of thousands of tons of fuel, munitions, armament and military equipment destroyed. Considerable damage was also done to huge air bases including Da Nang, Bien Hoa, Binh Thuan (Me-Kong Delta) for Quang (near Qui Nhon), and Chu Lai.

In addition, many enemy H.Q.s were completely or partly devastated, such as those of the puppet *Ministry of Defense* in Saigon that of the U.S. Infantry in Long Binh, that of the 2nd Air Corps, those of at least 10 divisions and 5 brigades of the U.S. satellite and puppet forces, apart from numerous enemy regiments and battalions (P.). It is safe to say that the PLAF splendidly timed their blows and hit very hard home at the current points of the enemy war machine, causing him very heavy losses in men, material and technical war means.

Today, two weeks after the opening of these well-coordinated offensives, the PLAF, according to Western news agencies themselves, have shown no sign they are "out of breath." It is repeatedly claimed in the top brasspapers in Washington or in Saigon.

Following are the most remarkable developments of the past week reported by GIPA:

Destruction of Dong Du Base

THIS base of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division nicknamed "Tropic Lightening" situated near Cao Chi, 30 km northwest of Saigon came under a ground assault of the patriots at 2 a.m. on Feb. 26, following a violent artillery barrage which hamstrung the defenders com-

pletely. The PLAF killed 650 GI's, wounded 420 others, destroyed 179 vehicles including 39 tanks and armored personnel carriers, and shot down or destroyed on the ground 39 aircraft mostly giant helicopters. They also reduced to rubble 16 blockhouses, 29 casemates, and burnt 4 arms depots including one containing rockets and one containing artillery shells, as well as a fuel dump and 82 barrack buildings. Fire raged on until 1 p.m. next day.

Another double win at Tra Cao

THIS position held by a U.S. battalion and situated in the Saigon defense perimeter, 55 km to the North West, was taken on the night of Feb. 22 as reported in our last issue: 600 GI's were killed or wounded. Another US unit was later sent in to re-occupy the position the PLAF had abandoned after their victory. On the night of Feb. 23, the latter came back in strength and, after less than 2 hours of fighting, destroyed this new garrison, and caused another 450 GI casualties. The survivors hurriedly fled from Tra Cao.

This was the second "double win" in the area known by the PLAF in this period. The first took place at on Trauh, near Dau Tieng, at almost about the same time as that of Tra Cao: 2 US battalions destroyed with about 1,000 GI killed or wounded.

At about 20 km farther to the Northwest of Tra Cao, near Trang Bang, the regional troops of the PLAF harassed the enemy without let-up and between Feb. 23 and March 2 put 900 enemy troops out of action, shot down 30 planes and helicopters, destroyed 38 vehicles and sunk or burnt 4 vessels.

GIPA further reported that in 4 other attacks on enemy river flotillas in this sector of Tay Ninh province, the PLAF sent to the bottom or set fire to 28 vessels and killed or wounded 380 U.S. puppets between Feb. 22 and Feb. 28.

Near Qui Nhon, 3 logistic bases destroyed

ON the Western edge of Qui Nhon city (45 km Northeast of Saigon) on the night of Feb. 23, the patriots attacked 3 U.S. logistic bases. Thirteen storage depots were burnt, 10,000 tons of munitions were blasted, destroying 6 planes and helicopters. The explosions

rocked buildings in Qui Nhon for 12 hours on end.

Further South, the attack on the night of Feb. 22 against the rear base of Battalion 3, 560th Regiment, U.S. 101st Airborne Division, in Phan Thiet, 151 km East of Saigon (see our previous issue) lost the 3rd battalion and 2 artillery companies wiped out (500 GI's killed or wounded) and 13 aircraft parked in this city's airfield, 12 cannons and a large number of vehicles destroyed. Enemy installations blazed for 8 hours.

Initial round-up

GIPA has given an initial round-up of the 1st week of the post-Tet attacks in some sectors as follows:

Between Feb. 23 and Feb. 28, in the provinces of Central Truong Bo (stretching from Da Nang to Cam Ranh) the PLAF struck at 11 cities and provincial capitals, 30 districts towns and sub-sector H.Q.'s, 16 airfields and 13 logistic quarters. They inflicted on the enemy 7,500 casualties including 3,000 GI's and South Korean mercenaries, destroyed or shot down 55 planes and helicopters, wrecked 150 vehicles and 40 cannons, sunk or damaged 6 vessels, and burnt 15 million litres of petrol and hundreds of thousands of tons of munitions and military equipment. Tens of thousands of people rose up to punish local tyrants and disperse some too concentration camps.

In Central Nam Hu (provinces on the banks of the Mekong river branches) between Feb. 23 and Feb. 27, they assaulted 6 cities, 3 airfields and dozens of district towns or sub-sector H.Q.'s and put more than 1,000 adverse troops out of action.

SAIGON PUPPET REGIME BANS PEACE MUSIC

THE Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration has just issued an order banning the popularization and performance of Composer Trinh Cong Son's music on the ground of its "anti-war character and its 'peace' theme which make it 'unsuitable to the present political situation'". The Saigon correspondent of Gini Phong Press Agency reported. Order was also given to seize all Trinh Cong Son's compositions now being popularized under all forms.

Trinh Cong Son is author of about one hundred songs



The fuel depot at Binh Duc, My Tho (provinces) set afire by PLAF on the night of February 23, 1969

REVOLUTIONARY POWER SET UP IN PHU YEN

RECENTLY the NFL committee of Phu Yen province convened a political congress of representatives of district and village people's Revolutionary Committees to elect the provincial people's Revolutionary Committee. Gini Phong press agency reported.

In his political report to the congress, the Chairman of the provincial NFL committee reviewed the great accomplishments and the unprecedented growth of the Phu Yen armed forces and people over the past 14 years, especially the big leap forward of the political and armed struggle of the

local armed forces and people since last year's Tet general attacks and uprisings. The liberated areas have been built on consolidated and the popular movement has been developing vigorously and as a result People's Councils and People's Revolutionary Committees have been set up in a short time in 5 districts and many villages.

The newly-elected Committee declared liquidation of the puppet administration in the province and called on the local people to defend revolutionary power at all costs and implement all the policies laid down by it.

which vividly depict his country and people in the U.S. imperialists current war of aggression. Of late, he has published a set of 15 pieces of music voicing the people's aspiration for peace which has prompted the Saigon triumvirate's anti democratic decision.

This move which came after the closing down of 15 newspapers has stirred up a hornets' nest among the academic circles, newsmen, youth, students and other sections of the Saigon people, and among public servants, puppet soldiers and policemen

as well. Many people openly commented "The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique is so much afraid of peace that it even tears and pieces paper peace doves and forbids peace songs."

"I'll go on with my work" Composer Trinh Cong Son said, challenging the measure. Many artists, intellectuals, students and youth have urged the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration to lift the ban on Trinh Cong Son's "peace" songs and demanded freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and freedom of artistic creation and performance.